

# 2004 - 9th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

The team of **Richard Abruzzo and Gary Johnson** (Team #18) are the winners in the Ninth America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race. They landed safely 3.2 miles northeast of Okmulgee, OK, about 8:15 AM MDT (1430Z).

The American team of **David and Alan Levin** (Team #4) finished second, landing near Guthrie, OK. The German team of **Gerd Strasmann and Rainer Herkenhoff** (Team #8) are the third-place winners.

The top three American pilots qualify to compete in next year's Coupe Aeronautique Gordon Bennett, one of the world's premier gas balloon competitions. The Gordon Bennett is traditionally held in the home country of the previous year's winner. An American team won the 2004 Gordon Bennett.

## 2004 9th America's Challenge Gas Balloon Race

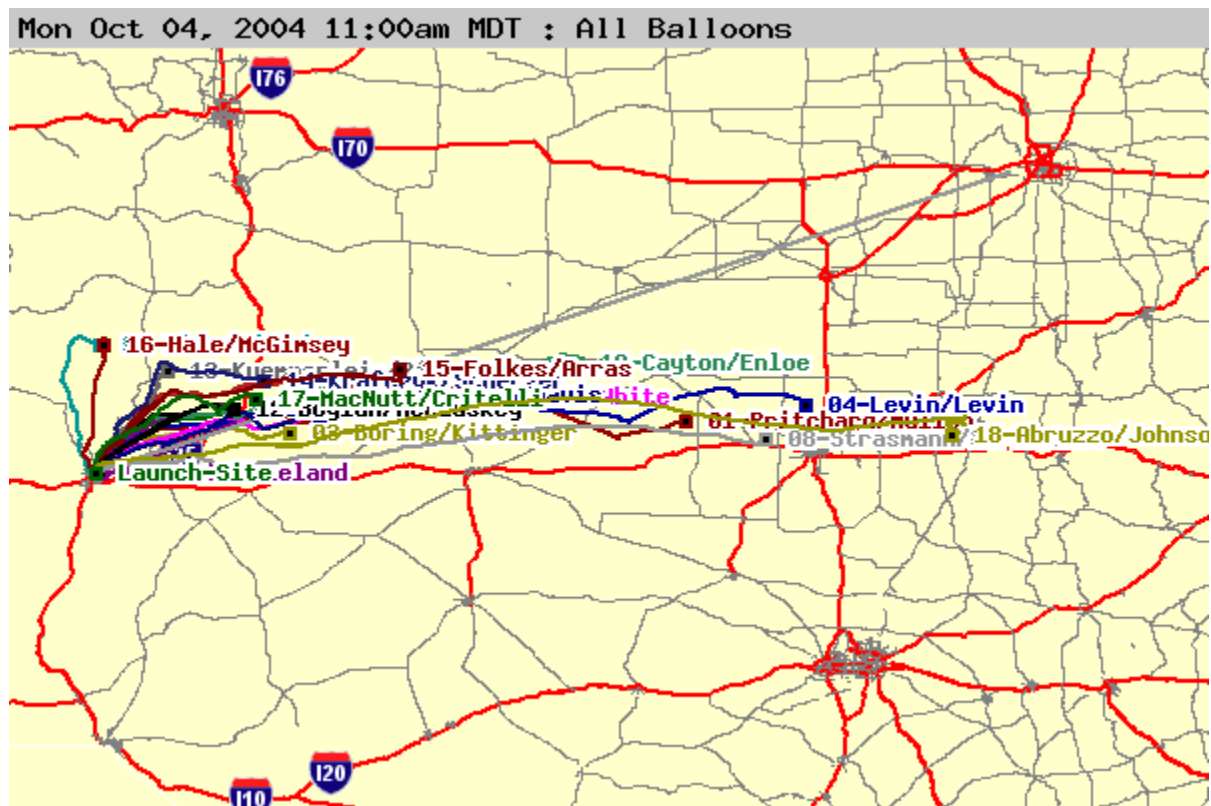
**Event Director: Pat Brake**

**Deputy Director: Mark Sullivan**

Rank	Pilot	Country	Distance		Duration
			Km.	Miles	
1st	Richard Abruzzo	USA	984.23	611.60	35.97
	Gary Johnson	USA			
2nd	David Levin	USA	819.41	509.18	33.18
	Alan Levin	USA			
3rd	Gerd Strasmann	Germany	772.87	480.26	20.57
	Rainer Herkenhoff	Germany			
4th	Lesley Pritchard	USA	690.21	428.89	30.83
	Jack Muller	USA			
5th	John "Andy" Cayton	USA	566.87	352.25	32.00
	Stuart Enloe	USA			
6th	Mark Sullivan	USA	383.27	238.16	18.93
	Cheri White	USA			

7th	Barbara Fricke Peter Cuneo	USA USA	362.02	224.96	20.53
8th	Janet Folkes Bill Arras	United Kingdom USA	351.16	218.21	21.63
9th	Louis Vitanza Bert Padelt	USA USA	261.13	162.27	18.77
10th	Peter Krafczyk Josef Scherzer	Germany Germany	235.30	146.21	18.27
11th	Gordon Boring Joe Kittinger	USA USA	229.07	142.35	15.75
12th	Phil MacNutt Brian Critelli	USA USA	209.69	130.30	17.22
13th	Bruce Hale Bob McGimsey	USA USA	189.11	117.52	15.15
14th	Thomas Boylan Bob McCluskey	USA USA	182.68	113.52	17.05
15th	Willie Eimers Greg Winker	Germany USA	180.01	111.86	18.93
16th	Alfred Derks Hedwig Nieland	Germany Germany	177.28	110.16	14.67
17th	Anja Kuemmerlein Volker Ricken	Germany Germany	163.55	101.63	11.90
18th	Ruth Lind	USA	No data		

**Final Tracking Image:**



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